DEPARTMENT OF PERMITTING SERVICES MONTGOMERY COUNTY IGCC PUBLIC WORK SESSION A meeting in the above-entitled matter was held on Wednesday, July 16, 2014, commencing at 2:07 p.m., in the County Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, 1st Floor Auditorium, Rockville, Maryland 20850, before: HEMAL MUSTAFA

Deposition Services, Inc.

12321 Middlebrook Road, Suite 210 Germantown, MD 20874 Tel: (301) 881-3344 Fax: (301) 881-3338 info@DepositionServices.com www.DepositionServices.com



ORIGINAL

INDEX

STATEMENT OF:	PAGE
Hemal Mustafa	3
Ralph Bennett	4
William LeRoy	6
Dan Coffey	9
Stuart Kaplow	16
Robert Harris	19
Lawrence Schoen	23

2

5

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

PROCEEDINGS

MR. MUSTAFA: Good afternoon, everybody. Please have a seat. My name is Hemal Mustafa. I'm manager for --Manager, Building Construction, Department of Permitting Mark Nauman couldn't come. He is our staff member, and unfortunately, he's not here. So I'm -- I don't want to cancel this.

I welcome all of you guys regarding this International Green Construction Code work session. the last session, and we welcome all the testimonies and comments, and we're going to go through Chapter 10, which is Existing Building; Chapter 11, Existing Building Site Development; Appendix A, Project Electives; Appendix B, Radon Mitigation; Appendix C, Optional Ordinance; Appendix D, Enforcement Procedures.

With this, I'll open the floor. I'll invite the participants who are going to present their testimony. Stephen Cook? Not here. Okay. Second individual is Ralph Bennett, please.

> MR. BENNETT: Yes.

Would you please come and --MR. MUSTAFA:

I assume this protocol applies. MR. BENNETT:

Yes, please. MR. MUSTAFA:

Thank you. My comments, since I MR. BENNETT: assume this to be the last of this series of sessions, my

20

19

21

22

23

24

25

comments are a little on the general side, but I have a colleague who will speak specifically to Chapters 10 and 11 and others as well. We hope our recommendations and our participation in these proceedings have shown the commitment of the Potomac Valley Chapter of the AIA to the adoption of a comprehensive sustainability code for Montgomery County. We feel that the code, like sustainability itself, must balance economy, environment, and equity. Finding this balance will not be easy, and we are committed to the success of this venture.

We wish to thank the Department of General Services for their thoughtful and comprehensive review of the document as users of its requirements and its objectives. We would also note that very few of either DGS or AIA suggestions are incorporated in the Department of Permitting Services' draft of June 16th. We understand that the draft on which we have been invited to comment over the last weeks was an early draft. Its brevity is an indication of how much DPS must draft into a legislative proposal. It also shows that Montgomery County may be among the few jurisdictions to adopt this code largely unamended.

We would also point out several questions which must be addressed and have not been. The first is, is ASHRAE 189.1 to be included as an alternative path, as the model code prescribes? This has not been addressed. And

will DPS then be providing separate amendment recommendations for ASHRAE 189.1? Thirdly, which of the project electives will DPS include, as requires? This is Appendix A. DPS draft includes no mention of Appendix A beyond several requirements which are proposed to be moved there. A model code -- the model code requires the jurisdiction having authority to designate which or how many project requirements must be met by the applicant. And then regarding transition, what version of LEED and level of LEED does the county intend to meet with the IgCC? In other words, what are the objectives in terms of other standards that are currently in use? Is Version -- 2009, Version 3, going to be used or Version 4, and are the levels to be achieved seen to be certified, silver, gold, et cetera?

And next to last, I would suggest, we have recommended, and I'd like to reiterate, the importance of a transition period during which several standards, including LEED, may be accepted. There's great familiarity and a developed infrastructure for LEED. There is no such infrastructure available yet for the IgCC, and we suggest that it needs time for this to develop and a transition period, using existing standards.

Lastly, I have a series of typographical errors that I will transmit in writing to you, which, or inconsistencies that we believe exist in the proposal of

25

June 16th. So that concludes my testimony. I'd like to give it over to Bill, who will speak to you about Chapters 2 Thank you. 10 and 11. 3 MR. MUSTAFA: You're very welcome, sir. MR. LEROY: So after taking a look at -- hi. 5 MR. MUSTAFA: Would you introduce yourself? 6 I'll introduce myself, sure. William MR. LEROY: 7 LeRoy and co-chair of the task force with AIA Potomac 8 Valley, and having had the chance to review both Chapters 10 and 11 with --10 MR. MUSTAFA: Ma'am? 11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can't hear you. 12 MR. LEROY: -- with Preservation colleagues --13 having had the chance to review Chapters 10 and 11 with 14 Preservation colleagues, I have the following comments, in 15 addition to the recommendations that the task force 16 submitted earlier, and it's in relation to the version that 17 is currently proposed where Chapter 10 is, is proposed to be 18 19 deleted. The deletion, let's see -- the Chapter 10 deletion 20 currently does not attempt to address the historic 21 Both Chapters 10 and 11, as written and amended buildings. 22 by our task force, attempt to do this. Though not very 23

well, they should be retained to reduce the potential

regulatory conflicts and interpretations between Department

of Permitting Services and Maryland Historic Trust. In light of that, there is language in the current unedited version that does conflict with the National Historic Preservation Act where there is overlap between the State Historic Preservation Office and the authority having jurisdiction, which, in the way that it's written, conflicts with the Historic Preservation Act.

Also, it's worth noting that the definition of substantial improvement, as defined by the version DPS is looking to review, still considers the market-based value of a property where this may conflict with the International Existing Building Code, where levels of alteration are applicable. One of the concerns in recent -- in our discussions internally, the recent economic swings can negatively impact property values, and especially in older and even historic properties can be negatively impacted. Our recommendation is to align the Existing Building Code with the IgCC with respect to alterations.

It's worth also noting that alterations are not included in the first chapter in the scope of the code proposed, and we would like to include renovations in addition to the additions. I think in Chapter 1, Section 103, it talks about new construction and additions, but it ignores the renovations. That said, with the current population, density of about 2,000 people per square mile in

Montgomery County, along with about 155,000 small businesses
-- and I pulled this from, like, LexisNexis -- existing
buildings can actually have a very big impact on greenhouse
gas reductions in the county.

When existing buildings undergo renovations, the Green Code should and can -- can and should apply. The DPS draft does not address the existing building renovations as such, and I think it's referred to as pertinences, is currently listed in that chapter of scope, and I don't believe that that's sufficient, as it's outlined, for, to cover renovations. I think it should be more explicit than that.

And, lastly, with respect to Chapter 10, the zEPI issue being applied to an addition raises a question and a concern if it's being attached to an existing building. zEPI is typically looked upon as a whole-building performance aspect, and so if the draft code doesn't cover renovations, how can zEPI, if it's absorbed in this code, apply to a whole building if, in some cases, an addition does not in fact have a separation?

Without retaining Section, or Chapter 10, that is, and revising Section 605, which is the envelope requirements, an impact on historic listed and eligible properties is a likely negative outcome that can impact character, with projections, thermal insulation

requirements, moisture drying, and other important character-defining features that, if it's not included in this version of the code, can have a negative outcome. So that's Chapter 10.

MR. MUSTAFA: Okay. Thank you very much.

MR. LEROY: Thanks.

MR. MUSTAFA: Thanks. Okay. Next person,
Catherine Provost, please. Catherine Provost? Okay. Next
person, Dan Coffey, please.

MR. COFFEY: Hi. My name is Dan Coffey. I'm the chair for the USGBC, Montgomery County Branch, and my comments today are going to be more general, overarching comments. The technical comments that we participated with the AIA Potomac Valley and those comments from last July and those, those comments that we felt strongly about then still, still apply.

The Montgomery County Branch of National Capital Region for USGBC really applauds the county for soliciting input from the industry professional groups, the public, and other stakeholders in adopting and implementing the IgCC code modification and amendments. Members of the Branch have actively participated with AIA Potomac Valley Task Force from the July 2013 recommendations, and the board members have attended many of the work group sessions with DPS.

Jeremy Sigmon from the USGBC National Capital
Chapter, which is what we call the mother ship or the main
national chapter downtown, was actually one of the original
members that created the IgCC code for the ICC, so one of
the original authors of that. And in a discussion that I
had with him about a week ago, he really reminded me of the
real key four objectives that served as the founding
strategic precepts for the IgCC.

The first was really to create a code that is adopted and applied as a building code and not some sort of voluntary incentive that could be seen as an excuse not to pursue LEED or other strategies that go beyond the minimum, so really to make this a code minimum and not to be going beyond that, that strategy.

To coordinate with the public input so that the new code receives broad support and is implemented successfully. This includes working closely with implementing agencies, who will be the ones to shoulder the burden of enforcement and education of their audiences.

The third point, to coordinate with other laws and policies that govern real estate and infrastructure so that the code actually does work when it's applied.

The fourth comment then was to permit leadership programs, like LEED, ASHRAE 189, and others, to serve as alternative means for compliance. This reduces the burden

2.2

on the building department during a transition and allows

LEED to coach the government regulators on how green

buildings are documented and should be -- and should provide

an incentive for developers to choose or to do more than

minimum code compliance. Since LEED will offer the ROI via

branding marketing that the code will not offer, this will

differentiate the innovators from the rest.

With those four elements, any code that includes green building ideas from LEED or IgCC or wherever would really be a better code than what we have today. So we do applaud the sort of forward motion in this process.

Montgomery County Branch respectfully suggests that we learn some -- learn from the early leaders in the code adoption. We had a recent discussion with David Epley, who was the coordinating person for the IgCC implementation for DCRA, and David went through a number of sort of really key lessons learned from their process, some of which were things that went well, some are things that didn't go so well. And the first one really was to create a construction codes advisory board to review all of the building codes. They were then subdivided by code types. The members were then selected from a variety of expertise areas in each group. The members consisted of public officials, architects, engineers, subject matter experts, builders, and contractors and citizens. The meetings were transparent,

2.5

discussions were made public, and documents created and decisions made were published publicly.

They reviewed each code section in detail, made recommendations to the jurisdiction. That collaborative process they marked as one of the key elements to a successful implementation. They do have some very unique situations in D.C. that are different than Montgomery County but, I think, again, a collaborative process to really help bolster this. They went through three public comment periods. The revisions were made and were, and then they were published publicly through -- but really was no need for hearing or debate. It was very little comments, very little revisions because of the collaborative process they went through early.

The third point was, some of the revisions to the IgCC 2015 were also considered heavily since the 2012 version had some conflicts and some obstacles that needed to be addressed for sort of smoother transition to implement the code. And he really did stress to really consider -- looking at some of those changes between those two versions really helped in their process to understand some of the complexities of that.

Significant time and effort was employed to create the administrative process and procedures and forms to administer the IgCC. DCRA actually purchased the rights to

make the IgCC unique to them, with a custom cover, the ability to edit chapters and comments and entire chapter modifications to make the codebook unique to their jurisdiction and more user-friendly for the practitioners, designers, and code enforcement. Those changes were actually written right into the codebook so you didn't have to correlate between a standard code document and an amendment, and they found that that was one of the comments that came back, especially from the practitioners and designers, that really was a good feedback that helped them tremendously in their process.

The fifth element was that the enforcement and fines were revised to make the cost of noncompliance to be more than compliance, okay, because they didn't want to just create a free pass for somebody to pay to get out from underneath of it. Again, it's code minimum; so they really should be complying with it. So it really shouldn't be a big problem.

Education and implementation efforts were made to make the process simple and understandable to follow. They did a tremendous amount of outreach, education with the community to help them understand that process, created documents to help the administrative process flow, so flow diagrams and other supporting information to make it very understandable.

2

3

5

6

8

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

The next element was the flexibility with unique projects and phased work, which is common in tenant alterations and building renovations. So, again, having that ability to have code modifications done or have the code official have the ability to make some commonsense judgments was really key to making a project successful, because really, the overarching piece here is to really, let's find a way to make the project successful and not find a way to say no to the project.

The Montgomery County Branch -- those are my comments from DCRA's discussion -- the Montgomery County Branch, as the board sat and also thought about other things that were important and -- that we would also want to not recommend that certain classes of buildings require to meet LEED, for instance, things like schools and other public buildings, because we have such a diversity of buildings in the county and schools have other things that are mandated on them from state agencies, funding requirements, and things that -- they have regulations from that side. So I think that they probably should be one, at least, until we get through some of these things, that they should be allowed more flexibility and have the option of meeting the IgCC or, alternatively, ASHRAE 189, LEED, or other applicable standards that they find more effective for their, for their type of building.

1.2

And sort of in closing, the Montgomery County
Branch of the USGBC would encourage a similar collaborative
public and private effort to make the implementation a real
example of sustainable partnership and a positive role model
for other jurisdictions to follow. Right now a lot of
people are watching what we're doing here in the county.
We're getting a lot of questions. So we really want to make
sure that this gets implemented well. With public support,
the implementation will be successful.

The real innovations and future success will not come from regulatory solutions. They will come from stimulating the creativity of the science and technology innovators to lead the way to a more successful and sustainable future. We've always got a lot of very innovative minds in our county and a lot of people willing to go beyond the code minimum. We've seen that from a lot of the commercial real estate developers. We're going to start to see that from other market sectors, as well, as they start to recognize the benefits of these buildings and the performance of it, and I think the county is doing some other things with energy benchmarking that are going to be supporting those things as well, so yeah, great. Thank you.

MR. MUSTAFA: All right. Thank you very much.

MR. COFFEY: Uh-huh.

MR. MUSTAFA: Thank you. So next person is Stu

Kaplow, please.

MR. KAPLOW: I'll just hand you a document.

MR. MUSTAFA: Thank you. Thank you.

MR. KAPLOW: She's got it.

MR. MUSTAFA: Yes. Thank you.

MR. KAPLOW: Thank you. My name is Stuart Kaplow. I'm a green building and sustainability attorney, and I'm fortunate today to be representing a coalition of 114 Maryland businesses that have come together under the umbrella of the Asphalt Alliances. The Asphalt Alliance members, more than two-thirds of them have done work in the National Capital Region this past calendar year. So many of them are obviously directly impacted by this and other codes in Montgomery County.

First and foremost, my clients are supportive of this effort. We think it's a great effort, supportive of Montgomery County's efforts to move towards the IgCC, and again, we thank you for this process and the opportunity to comment. We've commented previously and provided detailed written suggestions. I'm here today to talk specifically about, given the schedule that the county is following, about Appendix A, and I do that because in our earlier comments we specifically recommended that some of the language be moved to Appendix A, and that is the language with respect to hardscape mitigation.

Before I discuss that very briefly, what I've handed to you is actually an amendment that we believe will be adopted, though there's no certainty until October, but will be adopted in the 2015 version of the IgCC. That is, it's an amendment through the ICC process, and that amendment addresses my client's issue; that is, if we were not talking about the 2012 version but rather the 2015 version, I likely would not be sitting here talking to you because the form code addresses the very issue, or the new form code will address the very issue I'm here to talk about.

And again, very quickly, there are alternate methods. We provided suggestions for three ways to address our issue. Our issue, very simply put, is that the current form code, when addressing heat island mitigation, so that sort of -- and remember, Montgomery County has no current laws addressing heat island mitigation, nor does any jurisdiction in Maryland. So this is brand-new stuff. Some of the science may even be a little fuzzy, but it's clear we're all going to be addressing heat island mitigation now as a mandatory requirement -- that asphalt pavement and, in particular, pervious asphalt pavement be included in that mix of ways that heat island mitigation can be accomplished.

The form code doesn't do that. It only allows for four methods today. One is the planting of shade trees.

The other is trellises. One has to do with shading from adjoining buildings. The fourth has to do with the use of a concrete -- concrete products, permeable concrete products. And we're suggesting that a pervious asphalt product, and we've given the specs.

There's an -- there are actually two ASTM standards. The Maryland Department of Environment adopted one. The Maryland Highway Administration adopted another one. But there are two accepted ASTM standards for pervious asphalt that provide the 16 percent air void, and that 16 percent air void, allowing the air to move in and out of the product, does accomplish much of the heat island effect.

One of the reasons I handed up the proposed change to the 2015 version of the IgCC is it provides reference on the second page to the EPA study, where EPA has approved the asphalt product that we're talking about, as well as the concrete product.

So, again, I won't dwell on because we're simply really repeating the earlier comments that we submitted, but we believe that if Montgomery County is going to, is going to regulate urban heat island effect, which arguably may be an issue in some of the urbanized areas of the county but certainly has much less import in the suburban and rural areas of the county -- certainly when building a school on a sort of typical elementary school site, urban heat island

effect is obviously not a huge issue for that project -- we suggest the proper place for it is in Appendix A, is as a voluntary compliance path, and we've recommended that, and again, as you're considering Appendix A, we'd ask that you again look at that.

And I'll close with where I began, that the Asphalt Institute, the group that I'm here representing today, is a coalition of 114 businesses that actually employ over 3,000 individuals that work regularly in either Montgomery and/or Prince George's County, and the allied and associated businesses that participate in this alliance are a total of just over, it's now 308 businesses. So it's a fair number of businesses that work regularly in Montgomery County that are truly impacted. So we'd hope that you would allow the asphalt pavement products to be included.

MR. MUSTAFA: Thank you. Thank you very much.

MR. KAPLOW: Thank you very much.

MR. MUSTAFA: Next person is Robert Harris, please.

MR. HARRIS: Good afternoon. I'm Bob Harris. I'm with the law firm of Lerch, Early & Brewer here in Montgomery County. First of all, let me apologize. I'm kind of late to the party here unlike a lot of the people here. I've really just started getting into this this week at the request of a client, and I am certainly no expert on

1.0

either the Green Construction Code or building codes in general. I do, however, represent many builders and developers in Montgomery County that, I think, are really just waking up to this potential transformation here, and so my comments are very general; they're not highly prepared, but I think they relate to what you're doing here.

First of all, as you no doubt appreciate, any time there is a change in a code, it is of concern to an industry that makes its living around a code, such as a building code, and it's particularly concerning if the changes that are in play are different than what they're used to in other jurisdictions where they work, as well as what they're used to in Montgomery County. They do kind of get set in their ways. So there's a natural anxiety here.

It's particularly an anxiety, I think, for larger commercial projects because of the gestation period that these projects have, as opposed to a home or a small commercial project. The site plan approval process for these projects alone can take well over a year, but many of the conditions and requirements are baked into those site plan approvals, and if those are inconsistent with a code change that comes along, that developer is put in a, quite a predicament. Even the building permit plans that they have to produce for these projects take a long time, and if the code is changing while those permit plans are in the works,

it creates a real unknown and a potential problem.

The -- I've heard a couple of comments here today in terms of an option for keeping LEED as an option in the code, and I hadn't explored that before, but that might be something worth considering. At least that is the code requirement, the policy requirement to which pretty much everyone now is accustomed.

Similarly, I think there has to be more than a normal phase in for application of the code to projects that are somewhere in the works. Again, a site plan taking more than a year and building plans taking six months or whatever they may take, a two-month phase in that I think is normal may be insufficient and will catch too many people in the, in the changing tide there.

A third aspect of commercial projects, in particular, is many times the core and shell of the building are built well in advance of the tenant fit-out, and if the, if the core and shell is subject to one code and then the tenant fit-outs are subject to another code, there may be a situation where the two don't meet and you're precluded from accommodating that. That has to be considered in some respect.

Fourthly, while I work on a lot of office projects, I work on some -- and a lot of residential projects as well -- I work on some retail projects. I think

2.2

they're fewer in number than office and residential by a long shot, and many times I've found that various codes, whether they be zoning codes or building codes, don't, don't have retail in mind when they're being written. And I'm here today particularly on behalf of one retail developer that says -- you know, they are concerned about how this might affect specific development relating to retail.

Specifically in that regard, from what they've looked at superficially so far with this, some of the lighting requirements, in terms of dimming and daylight harvesting, are inconsistent with the retail tenant policies and practices and may be a problem. Some of the submetering requirements that I think are in here are inconsistent with the way the industry typically operates and may be a problem, and I think there are others as well. Again, I've had, you know, very little opportunity to dig into this and I'm not an expert; so I would, you know, plan to follow up with this with both written comments and, if we have the opportunity, more specific interaction too. So that's my comment. Thank you.

MR. MUSTAFA: Thank you. Thank you very much. Did I miss anybody?

MR. SCHOEN: I haven't signed up, but I --

MR. MUSTAFA: Oh, you can go, sir.

MR. SCHOEN: I'm yet another latecomer. My name

is Lawrence Schoen. I am a licensed engineer. I work for Schoen Engineering Inc., and I'm also ASHRAE's vice chair of the Standard 189.1 committee. We actually have quite a bit of, quite a bit of representation in the State of Maryland. The chair of the committee is Dr. Andy Persily, who works just up the street at NIST, and of course, 189.1 is part -- it's one of the, as people have said, it's one of the compliance pathways that's allowed in the IgCC.

cosponsored by IES, the Industrial -- the Illuminating Engineering Society, as well as ASHRAE, AIA, and USGBC. In recognition of what some people have already said, that the LEED ratings were never intended as a, as a legal regulation, this one is. I know some issues have come up in the past. I know some have come up here. We've been through an extensive consensus process on 189.1. So I guess I offer myself personally, and I'm sure Dr. Persily would assist in, the county, in any history of those discussions. I also want to clarify, I'm not speaking for any organization right now, speaking for myself, haven't been authorized by any of my clients or ASHRAE or anybody. So I speak for my own personal opinions.

So just as an example, for instance, the heat island effect that was brought up, there are six ways to meet it in Section 5.3.2.1 of ASHRAE Standard 189.1. So I

guess I would encourage the county, as well as individuals, to look at those options to see if those actually meet, meet the needs. I believe there's more flexibility in there, which kind of brings me to another point, which is the transition that people have suggested.

I have a great personal investment in seeing Standard 189.1 succeed and in seeing the IgCC succeed, and I support personally that concept of transition because -- I mean, there are some agencies of the federal government that have adopted the IgCC and/or 189.1, but because of this increased familiarity that's needed in the design community -- and I'm part of the design community -- I think that's a great idea.

Furthermore, in support of that, there was just a brand-new recently signed memorandum of understanding between, between the ICC, ASHRAE, and USGBC where, where the 189.1 committee will be sort of the source of the technical content for the Green Code, the ICC will be the source of compliance, and USGBC is in there. The roles are not clearly defined yet, but there is this MOU. So the outcome of that, I believe, will be better support materials and implementation materials for the design community that will move it more towards, as mature as the LEED rating system is, as people have mentioned.

So I guess I'm speaking (a) in support of the

transition period and (b) in support of look to the future, there's this new MOU, and I think we hope to get there. guess that's all I have to say. Thank you. MR. MUSTAFA: Okay. Thank you very much. Anybody 4 else? 5 (No audible response.) 6 MR. MUSTAFA: Thank you all for coming. We'll 7 8 conclude this. UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me. 9 question. What is the duration of the comment period? Does 10 it close today? Does it extend until the end of the month? 11 How much further? 12 MR. MUSTAFA: I'll get back to you. I don't know. 13 I'm filling in for Nauman, and he's not here right now. 14 Okay. 15 MR. LEROY: Can I add a little bit of additional 16 testimony on Chapter 11, if I could? 17 MR. MUSTAFA: Yes, if you want to stand up. 18 MR. LEROY: It'll be just two seconds. 19 MR. MUSTAFA: Okay. 20 Sure. I just wrote this at the --21 MR. LEROY: just to kind of bring attention to the fact that in Chapter 22 11 existing building sites is currently not proposed to be 23 deleted, and I wanted to confirm that. If that's in fact 24 the case, then it may be a conclusion that the draft version 25

by DPS appears to support the razing of existing buildings in favor of new construction and/or additions but not necessarily the renovation, the adaptive reuse, the restoration, or preservation of existing buildings on existing building -- on existing sites. The two chapters together address whole-building issues related to existing buildings and their properties, and that's, that's what I wanted to add, so thanks. MR. MUSTAFA: Thank you very much. (Whereupon, at 2:46 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.)

 $\underline{\lor}$ Digitally signed by Wendy Campos

ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATE

DEPOSITION SERVICES, INC., hereby certifies that the foregoing pages represent an accurate transcript of the electronic sound recording of the proceedings before the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services, in the matter of:

IGCC PUBLIC WORK SESSION

Wendy Campos	

Wendy Campos

July 17, 2014